Sale of Sugar.

70. ✱ **MR. E. K. MADHAVAN** (*Kunnatnad* cum *Parur*) : Will the Government be pleased to state :

(*a*) whether they have received petitions regarding irregularities of the sale of sugar in the Parur Municipal area ; and

(*b*) if so, what they have done in the matter ?

MR. P. G. NARAYANAN UNNITHAN (*Excise Commissioner*) : (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) The matter is being enquired into.

MR. E. K. MADHAVAN : May I know the number of petitions received in the matter ?

MR. P. G. NARAYANAN UNNITHAN . One.

MR. P. O. THOMAS: May I know whether Government are aware that the whole supply of sugar is received once a week and that there is irregularity in the distribution of it ?

MR. P. G. NARAYANAN UNNITHAN : There is no information that there are irregularities in sugar distribution. It is left entirely to the local officer. If there is any defect in it, the Tahsildar may be approached.

Arrack shops in the State.

71. ✱**MR. T. K. NARAYANA PILLAI** (*Neyyattinkara* cum *Trivandrum*) Will the Government be pleased to state :

(*a*) whether the number of arrack shops in the State is larger in 1118 than in 1117 ;

(*b*) if so, the reason for increasing the number ;

(*c*) whether licences are issued for opening temporary toddy and arrack shops at Pampa and Sabarimala ; and

(*d*) what were the periods for which such licences are issued ?

MR. P. G. NARAYANAN UNNITHAN : (*a*) No.

(*b*) This does not arise.

(*c*) Temporary licences for sale of arrack near Pampa are issued.

(*d*) For 8 days in 1119.

MR. T. K. NARAYANA PILLAI : May I know with reference to answers to part (c) and (d), why such temporary licences are granted ?

MR. P. G. NARAYANAN UNNITHAN : It is considered necessary to avoid pilgrims and others taking illicit stuff to that place and drinking it there.

MR. T. K. NARAYANA PILLAI : May I know whether adequate steps cannot be taken to prevent the pilgrims from taking illicit arrack to those places ?

MR. P. G. NARAYANAN UNNITHAN : To conduct such an investigation would be troubling the pilgrims. If the supply is controlled, there will be no difficulty for checking. Further, the transport of liquor is limited to a fixed quantity. If the quantity to be transported comes to more than a bottle a transport permit has to be secured.

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